Mining Rights to India in the Indian Ocean

*247. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations have given mining rights to India in the Indian Ocean adjoining its territorial waters;

(b) if so what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any mining operations have so far been undertaken in the Indian Ocean; and

(d) if so what are the results thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): (a) to (d) On the 10th December 1982 the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted. *Interalia* the following concepts flow from this Convention:

(1) Territorial Waters

The area encompasses 12 nautical miles of the coastline. The littoral States exercise full sovereignty in this area.

(2) Exclusive Economic Zone

It encompasses the area of the sea within 200 nautical miles from the coastline.

(3) Continental Shelf

The area beyond the limits of territorial waters upto 350 nautical miles.

(4) Deep Seabed Area

Beyond the limits of the continental shelf.

(5) Pioneer Investor

Any entity that has expended an amount of not less than US 30 million dollars in pioneering activities of deep seabed mining and expended not less than 10 per cent of this amount on the location, survey and evaluation of a specific mining site. India has been recognised as a pioneer investor.

(6) Preparatory Commission

It is to prepare the rules, regulations and incidental arrangements for working out the character of the International Seabed Authority which will ultimately be vested with the powers to implement the regulations. Meanwhile, this Commission will also register the applications of the pioneer investors for deep seabed mining.

2. The mining rights outside the Territorial Waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone are required to be registered with the United Nations. India has identified two mining sites in the Central Indian Ocean in the international waters, of a area of 150,000 sq. km. Our applicaton is coming up for discussion in early 1987 regarding the registration of the two sites by the Preparatory Commission.

3. Research and development work on mining in the identified area and on the metallurgy of the nodules is being actively pursued.

4. Extraction of three important metals, namely, copper, nickel and cobalt from the nodules has been going on at the semi-pilot plant scale.

बंगलौर में एक भू-उपग्रह केन्द्र का स्थापित किया जाना

*248. **श्री शरद यादव** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने मैसर्स टेक्सस इन्स्ट्रूमेंट नामक एक अमरीकी बहुराष्ट्रिक कम्पनी को बंगलौर में पूरे स्वामित्व अधिकारों के साथ एक भू-उपग्रह केन्द्र स्थापित करने की अनुमति दी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है ;